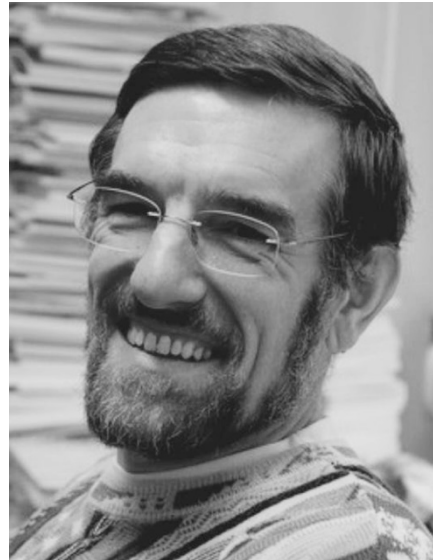


In memoriam Fons van de Vijver

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It was with a great deal of sadness that the world learned of the untimely death of Fons van de Vijver, a giant in cross-cultural psychology and in particular, the study of personality assessment, acculturation, multiculturalism, and testing. He died of a stroke on June 1, 2019 while bicycling in Queensland, Australia. Fons had been retired for approximately one year from the University of Tilburg and had moved with his loving wife, Lona, to Australia. Given the multiplicity of important contributions Dr. van de Vijver made to highly related fields of psychology over the past 25 years, we believe that psychologists whose areas of expertise focus on personality measurement, cross-cultural issues, and/or methodological issues pertinent to these areas are truly indebted to his cutting edge contributions. We begin our heartfelt tribute to Fons with a summary of his academic credentials and timeless contributions to his beloved Tilburg University and follow this brief discussion with an overview of the primary focus of his numerous publications and conference/workshop presentations, together with his important leadership contributions to many diverse psychological organizations.



Alphonsius (Fons) Josephus Rachel was born on October 4, 1952 in Koewacht, The Netherlands and was 66 at the time of his passing. One can imagine him as a studious but popular young boy and teenager. Fons studied psychology at Tilburg University in the Netherlands, where he also earned a Ph.D., and stayed there as a faculty member for the major portion of his career. He held a chair in cross-cultural psychology as well as an

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extraordinary chair at North-West University, South Africa, and the University of Queensland, Australia. Over his years at Tilburg University, Fons served as Associate Dean for Research as well as Associate Dean for Education. He also supervised approximately 40 PhD studies and 6 post-doctoral students.

Turning now to Dr. van de Vijver's publications, we note that he had authored or co-authored over 500 publications - mainly in the domain of cross-cultural psychology. The primary topics in his research involved bias and equivalence, psychological acculturation and multiculturalism, similarities and differences in the cognitive domain, response styles, translations and adaptations. His work on analytic approaches to, and conceptualization of acculturation and multiculturalism, ultimately led to the development of an indigenous personality scale relevant to 11 South African languages. Among the books that he wrote with others include: *Methods and data analysis for cross-cultural research* (both individually and with Kwok Leung), *Cross-cultural survey methods* (with Janet Harkness and others), and *Cross-cultural research methods in psychology* (with David Matsumoto). Indeed, he has been one of the most frequently cited cross-cultural psychologists in Europe, if not worldwide.

Fons has presented keynotes and invited lectures at a vast number of conferences and offered workshops worldwide. He was a member of the following professional organizations: European Association of Psychological Assessment, International Academy for Intercultural Research, International Association of Applied Psychology, International Association for Cross-Cultural Psychology, and the International Test Commission (ITC), where he was a Fellow. He is the former editor of the *Journal of Cross-Cultural Psychology*, the *European Journal of Personality Assessment*, and the ITC Bulletin, which at that time (1994-1999) existed as a separate section in the *European Journal of Psychological Assessment*. During this time period also, Fons worked closely with fellow ITC member, Ron Hambleton, in developing a detailed set of guidelines pertinent to the adaptation of educational and psychological tests for use in other languages and/or cultural contexts. The second edition of these guidelines is currently listed on the ITC website. Of course, it should not be surprising that Fons served as a reviewer and editorial board member for numerous scholarly journals as he was considered a particularly appropriate reviewer for papers addressing the adaptation of assessment scales, as well as related methodological issues associated with cross-cultural research. Finally, Fons was the 2013 recipient of the American Psychological Association's Award for Distinguished Contributions to the International Advancement of Psychology (for his contributions to international cooperation and to the advancement of knowledge of psychology) and the 2014 recipient of the International Association of Applied Psychology Fellows Award (for contributions to applied psychology).

Fons was sought after to serve in leadership positions as well. He served recently (2016-2018) as president of the International Association of Cross-Cultural Psychology, and was a former president of Division 2 (Assessment and Evaluation) of the International Association of Applied Psychology (2002-2006), and perhaps most importantly to this audience, he was a former President of the European Association of Psychological Assessment (2011-2015).

Indeed, the professional associations for whom Fons worked will be forever grateful for his dedicated contributions over a span of several decades. His energy was remarkable, and his cheerfulness and joyous approach to life paralleled the manner in which he approached his profession. Although many of us know that we will miss his contributions tremendously, we know even more poignantly that we will miss his friendship even more.

References

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